

ANNUAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

BOTSWANA

22 March 2004

In Brief

Appeal No.: 01.15/2003 ([Click here to access the 2003 Appeal](#))

Appeal target: CHF 529,094 (USD 363,330 or EUR 359,826)

Appeal coverage: 51.8% ([Click here to access the Final Financial Report](#))

Appeal 2004: Botswana no. 01.12/2004 ([Click here to access the 2004 Appeal](#))

This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For further information specifically related to this Annual Appeal please contact:

- In Botswana: Norah Mophlabane, Secretary General, Botswana Red Cross Society, Gaborone ; Email brcs@info.bw; Phone 267.35.24.65; Fax 27.31.23.52
- In Zimbabwe: Will Corkill, Federation Regional Programme Coordinator (acting), Harare; Email ifrczw08@ifrc.org; Phone 263.4.70.51.66; Fax 263.4.70.87.84
- In Geneva: Terry Carney, Federation Regional Officer for Southern Africa, Africa Dept.; Email terry.carney@ifrc.org; Phone 41.22.730.42.98; Fax 41.22.733.03.95

Overall analysis of the programme

Botswana has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the world with more 40% adults aged 15-49 years infected. The disease has an enormous impact on the country and has caused negative economic growth and decreased agricultural output. The number of orphans and dependants continues to increase as the disease continues to spread. [Botswana Red Cross Society](#) increased efforts in the fight against the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and has established a home-based care (HBC) project in Kasane, which is one of the districts mostly affected by HIV/AIDS. The national society continued to strengthen the prevention project in Kanye district and an extra prevention project was established in the Dukwi refugees camp where peer educators were trained in HIV/AIDS prevention and are sensitizing the refugees and the host communities.

Botswana Red Cross launched a joint HBC programme with Namibia Red Cross and Zambia Red Cross across their common borders along the Caprivi Strip. The cross border project constitutes a significant step in trying to curb the pandemic in an area where the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is up to 50%. The border posts between the three countries are busy with people travelling back and forth and this constant movement has called for a common approach in fighting HIV/AIDS related illnesses.

The Federation has continued to focus its support on the capacity building of the Botswana Red Cross to ensure that the national society has the adequate institutional capacity to respond to the humanitarian needs in the country. The national society received funding from the Federation capacity building fund, through an

Botswana; Appeal no. 01.15/2003; Annual Report

organizational development (OD) proposal. The national society also hired a consultant to reassess the organizational set up and the results formed the basis of the implementation of the change process which is currently taking place. A new Secretary General was appointed in the third quarter of 2003 and since then there has been renewed commitment from the national society towards the change process.

Health and Care

Goal: A sustainable improvement in the general health and reduction in HIV/AIDS transmission of the targeted vulnerable communities through the provision of community-based health and care interventions

Objective: The federation facilitates the development of the national society's capacity in the community-based health care (CBHC) and HIV/AIDS programming including through the sharing of lessons learned from the southern Africa national societies.

Health

Due to lack of funding there were no activities within the general health programme.

HIV/AIDS

The national society identified orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Kasane district, Kanye and the Dukwi refugee camp in order to integrate the OVC project with the HBC project. Some peer educators, the project officer for Kasane and participants from other organizations were trained in the memory box project¹. REPSSI, a partner of the Red Cross in southern Africa in giving psychological support to the vulnerable through memory box projects conducted the training.

The national society received financial support from the Federation Regional Delegation in Harare for HIV/AIDS activities. The national society does not have bilateral donors and is funded by the Federation and occasionally receives funds from the government of Botswana.

Goal: A sustainable improvement in the general Health and the reduction on the HIV/AIDS transmission among the targeted vulnerable communities through the provision of community based health and care interventions.

Objective: Transmission of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) is reduced and vulnerability of the youths and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) is reduced.

Achievements

2,000,000 condoms distributed

The Botswana Red Cross through the HIV/AIDS project collected condoms from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and distributed them in the course of the project, on the Red Cross day and the World AIDS day. 1,900,000 condoms were distributed. There was increased awareness after target communities were sensitized on condom use by the Red Cross volunteers. The volunteer coaches dialogued with traditional leaders on sex issues and on how they can assist the community to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and STI.

400 youth peer educators trained and 10,000 youths reached with behaviour change communication

120 youths were trained as peer educators and reached out to over 3000 in and out of school youths. The programme has been accepted by the community and it is evident that the use of condoms has increased. The local clinic reported an increase in the demand for condoms.

¹ Memory Box is one of the Red Cross initiatives to help mothers and fathers, powerless in the face of death due to HIV/AIDS, to communicate with their children by making a treasure chest of information such as family, photographs, letters, stories and history. The memory box also serves as an important vehicle in the fight against HIV/AIDS, by allowing people to talk openly about the disease

Botswana; Appeal no. 01.15/2003; Annual Report

600 PLWHA provided with home-based care and food baskets

In Kasane district HBC projects, 13 care facilitators were trained and provide HBC for about 60 clients. The care facilitators have a good working relationship with local government clinics. The clients receive food and non-food items from the government and the care facilitators assisting in the distribution and dissemination of information.

200 youths and 30 PLWHA trained in income generating activities

Botswana Red Cross trained 20 PLWHA in income generating activities (IGA) and the formation of support groups. The trainees expressed willingness to establish poultry farms, vegetable gardens and brick moulding but the national society was uncertain about the feasibility of the projects because members of the support groups are PLWHA².

1,000 OVC supported

The national society has registered 93 OVC and referred them to the social welfare for assistance. OVC receive support in school, food and clothing from the government.

The Botswana Red Cross is recognized both nationally and internationally as a key actor in the fight against HIV/AIDS, through advocacy and communications strategies directed at media and authorities.

The contribution of the Botswana Red Cross in the fight and prevention of HIV/AIDS infection is well recognized by the government and NGO. The government of Botswana has acknowledged the support of the Red Cross especially in care for the vulnerable, prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission and disaster response and mitigation.

Impact

The Red Cross is well recognized for its assistance to people made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. Most of the clients appreciate the HBC project in Kasane and the prevention measures.

Constraints

The misunderstanding by the government on the role of the Red Cross volunteers in the HBC project and how the volunteers should be working at the clinics has been resolved through familiarisation meetings between the government and the national society.

Disaster Management

Botswana Red Cross has responded to local disasters over the years. Floods, fires and HIV/AIDS are the most prevalent disasters. The national society with support from the Federation Regional Delegation in Harare started a rehabilitation programme for the victims of cyclone Eline floods in 2000. Houses were built for the flood victims in four villages in Kgakagadi south district. Volunteers have been trained in first aid and disaster management. The national society is working with the government and UNHCR to run health services in Dukwi refugee camp.

Through lessons learnt, the national society took the initiative to work towards becoming a well functioning and well-prepared national society. To achieve this, a strategic planning workshop was held in May 2002, during which a draft strategic plan was developed and the need for a vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) was identified to map the way forward for the national society. The Federation Regional Delegation in Harare was asked to help facilitate this. However, the national society could not secure funds to implement concrete activities.

In February, two staff from the Botswana Red Cross attended a DM planning meeting in Harare where the way forward in improving disaster management programmes was mapped. At the meeting, national societies were urged to finalize the DM programme work plans for 2003. It has been difficult for the Botswana Red Cross to start implementing the programme activities due to lack of funding.

Botswana; Appeal no. 01.15/2003; Annual Report

Goal: To improve the disaster preparedness and response mechanism to empower vulnerable communities to cope with the effects of disaster through capacity and appropriate interventions

Objectives: Federation assistance to the Botswana Red Cross has increased the national society disaster response capacity to meet the humanitarian needs in the country.

Achievements

Improved capacity of the Botswana Red Cross to prepare for and respond to disasters through capacity building of the Red Cross human resource base and empowerment of vulnerable communities to cope with disasters

Disaster management, youth, branch development and information officers attended a VCA training of trainers (ToT) workshop at the Federation Regional Delegation in Harare in an effort to build the human resources capacity of Botswana Red Cross. The officer who is trained in VCA will cascade this training in the national society by conducting VCA training in four regions when funds are secured. In March 2003 the DM Officer participated in a relief technical workshop in Seoul, Korea, organized by the Federation Regional Delegation in Harare in conjunction with the Republic of Korea Red Cross.

Community-based early warning systems (CBEWS) established through DMIS mechanism and easily accessible by National Society branches in high risk areas by end of 2003

The three staff trained in regional disaster response team (RDRT) has been equipped with skills to devise appropriate CBEWS starting with the community at branch level which has been hindered by lack of funding.

The members of RDRT have been monitoring potential disaster situations and reporting to the Federation Regional Delegation in Harare. In February 2003, a report was received at the Delegation, warning of an impending drought according to the information that had been issued by the country's early warning unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. There were no locally produced grains in the markets, there were reports of cattle dying and water sources were reported to have dried up. The country was reported to be relying on more imports of grains to meet the national demand which led to hiked grain prices.

Comprehensive disaster management policy and plan developed and operational by the end of 2003

The national society has a draft disaster management policy to guide its disaster management activities.

Sustainable food security strategy incorporated into all national society priority programmes by 2003

Discussions are yet to take place between the various sectors and stakeholders on appropriate strategy in light of the lessons learnt during the recent food security operations in the region.

Improved refugee services in health care are achieved through the use of SPHERE³ standard in Dukwi camp by end of 2003

Assistance to the refugee programme continues with support from government and UNHCR. Following the technical support visit to the Dukwi refugee camp by the Health Delegate in November 2002, a plan of action to improve the health services in the camp was developed. However, lack of funding prevented the implementation of the activities.

Improved DM infrastructure and emergency stocks are available by end of 2004

The national society has undertaken an inventory of its current DM resources and has also embarked on a fund raising campaign to replenish emergency supplies and establish a disaster emergency fund of a minimum of BWP 10,000⁴ by the end 2004.

⁴ BWP – Botswana Pula (local currency); BWP 10,000 is approximately CHF 2,700

Botswana; Appeal no. 01.15/2003; Annual Report

VCA conducted and needs established by end of 2003

Botswana Red Cross in its quest to be a well-prepared national society planned to conduct a VCA in four regions of the country but was not able to undertake the activity due to lack of funds. However, in December funds were secured from Southern Africa food security operation and the VCA were conducted.

Impact:

The RDRT trained members of staff at the Botswana Red Cross are available to be deployed to the field at short notice should a disaster occur. This has greatly contributed to the increase of the national society's disaster preparedness capacity.

Constraints

Lack of guaranteed funding from the beginning of the year has hampered implementation of activities. However, all concerted efforts were made to raise funds for the programme although further loss of experienced personnel has reduced the national society capacity to implement and manage the programmes.

Coordination

Disaster management relies heavily on co-operation with other stakeholders and the Botswana Red Cross is making every effort to profile its image and good working relationships with other relevant organizations both within governments and NGO. In the refugee programme, close collaboration and good working relationships with UNHCR, government and other participating partners is being strengthened.

Organizational Development

The Federation's regional organizational development (OD) programme supported the Botswana Red Cross in capacity building and the national society's restructuring to ensure that the national society becomes a well functioning national society. 30,000 CHF from regional OD was allocated to support Botswana OD activities in the last quarter of the year. The plan focused on the re-assessment of the national society and the most vulnerable communities. The Federation Regional Delegation in Harare has identified the national society as a priority for 2004 and has agreed to support it through the HIV/AIDS programme and OD activities as an integrated strategy towards its recovery process.

Goal: Implementation of characteristics of a well-functioning national society has improved the Botswana Red Cross in the three key areas: foundation; capacity; and performance.

Objective: The capacity of Botswana Red Cross to design and implement their strategic directions is improved

Achievements

Botswana Red Cross has a legal foundation that supports the effective implementation of programmes.

The national society could not review its constitution and finalize its draft strategic plan, due to lack of adequate human resources. The VCA assessment done by a consultant validated the VCA findings, and this has had a positive impact towards a change process.

Botswana Red Cross has an effective volunteer management system in place

The national society participated in the regional volunteer management workshop but the national society has yet to facilitate the implementation of the policy.

Botswana Red Cross has in place effective financial management systems

Two national society staff participated to the resource development and volunteer management workshops. Impact was limited as the participants came from branches and were not well aware of the operations at headquarters.

Botswana; Appeal no. 01.15/2003; Annual Report

Botswana Red Cross human resource is managed effectively.

The Botswana Red Cross has a new Secretary General and Finance Officer. These new appointments have improved the national society's human resource base.

Impact

The national society is willing to implement its own change strategy. The newly hired Secretary General held board orientation to map the way forward, a move that will help build the image of the national society and attract donors to support its programme.

Constraints

The lack of funding towards the 2003 Appeal and lack of human resources made it difficult to implement OD activities.

[*Click here to return to title page*](#)